

INFORMATION FOR NEW 9TH GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS ABOUT FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE

It is important to come to school on time. It is easy to fall behind if you are frequently late or absent. Disciplinary consequences will be applied for excessive, unexcused absence. Please turn in valid excuses within three days of the absence.

BELL SCHEDULE

TIME	Lunch A Group	Lunch B Group	Lunch C Group
7:30 -7:36	[7:27 Warning Bell] Homeroom	[7:27 Warning Bell] Homeroom	[7:27 Warning Bell] Homeroom
7:40 -9:00	Period 1 – 80 min.	Period 1 – 80 min.	Period 1 – 80 min.
9:00 -9:27	<i>Channel One</i> and Tutorial – 27 min.	<i>Channel One</i> and Tutorial – 27 min.	<i>Channel One</i> and Tutorial – 27 min.
9:31 -10:51	Period 2 – 80 min.	Period 2 – 80 min.	Period 2 – 80 min.
10:55	Lunch A - 30 min. 10:55 - 11:25	Period 3A - 40 min. 10:55 - 11:35	Period 3 – 80 min. 10:55 - 12:15
	Period 3 – 80 min. 11:29 - 12:49	Lunch B - 30 min. 11:35 - 12:05	
12:49		Period 3B - 40 min. 12:09 - 12:49	Lunch C – 30 min. 12:19 - 12:49
12:53 -2:13	Period 4 – 80 min.	Period 4 – 80 min.	Period 4 – 80 min.

BUSES / ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE

Buses will drop students off on the north side of the building in the morning. Students will enter FHS through the cafeteria doors and proceed to their locker bay (near the science rooms upstairs on the west side of the building) and homeroom. At the end of the day they will leave their locker bays and proceed down the stairs and out the nearest door to go to their buses which pick up either on the south or west side of the building. Their particular bus is waiting in the same place each day. The 4th period class ends at 2:12 and the buses pull away promptly at 2:17 so students are reminded to proceed quickly but carefully to their buses. If a student should miss his/her bus or must remain after school, he/she may get a pass for a middle school bus from the FHS office. The student would have to walk down to FMS to get on that bus. Also – students who have a 1st period at FMS (we offer four electives at that school) must stay on their bus and get off at FMS. Following the class a bus will bring them back to FHS for the rest of the school day.

EYES ON STUDENTS AT FHS AND A CARING STAFF

We take very seriously the task of providing a safe, secure, educationally productive atmosphere at FHS. Our relative small size and tradition of having staff work well together to this end allows for us to have a lot of ‘eyes on our students’. When we see / hear of problems developing for a student we get the word to everyone who needs to know and we intervene as quickly and appropriately as possible. We stress this level of communication among all of us, but also with the parent. We do everything possible to not have anyone ‘fall through the cracks’ as can happen in a larger facility.

OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Feel free to contact the following people if there is any problem. You may call or email the following people.

Joan Martter – Secretary / Attendance Clerk	474-2600 Dial 9 and then extension 3144	joanm@fairview.iu5.org
Trudi Featsent – Secretary	474-2600 X 9 - 3101	trudif@fairview.iu5.org
Pam Tann – Guidance Secretary	474-2600 X 9 - 3110	ptann@fairview.iu5.org
Lisa George – Guidance Counselor	474-2600 X 9 - 3113	lgeorge@fairview.iu5.org
Cindy Henry - Guidance Counselor	474-2600 X 9 - 3112	chenry@fairview.iu5.org
Jim Kissman – Guidance Counselor	474-2600 X 9 - 3111	jkissman@fairview.iu5.org
Dale Lewis – Assistant Principal	474-2600 X 9 - 3103	dlewis@fairview.iu5.org
David Park - Principal	474-2600 X 9 - 3102	dpark@fairview.iu5.org

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There are numerous activities at the high school. See list below. It is wise to join at least one in order to solidify your ties to the high school and belong to a group of friends who are engaged in positive activities. It is possible to succeed in academics and still take part in extracurriculars. This is the case for more than 60% of our student body. Belonging to them is fun and provides memorable experience in organizing time and while improving individual skills it also instills the importance of being part of a team effort.

Athletics	Organizations / Clubs
Baseball	Academic Decathlon
Basketball (Boys & Girls)	Drama Club
Cheerleading	French Club
Cross Country	Key Club
Diving	Literary Magazine
Football	Marching Band
Golf	Math Club
Ice Hockey (Boys' Club Sport)	National Honor Society
Soccer (Boys & Girls)	Orchestra
Softball	Recycling Club
Swimming (Boys & Girls)	Robotics
Tennis (Boys & Girls)	SADD/ <i>Busted</i>
Track	Spanish Club
Volleyball (Girls)	Speech & Debate
Water Polo (Girls' Club Sport)	Student Council
Wrestling	Student Store
	<i>Tiger Roar</i> Newspaper
	Varsity Club
	Yearbook

MENTORING PROGRAM

Fairview High School is implementing a new mentoring program this year. The name of this nationwide program is *Kick-Off* and every incoming ninth grader as well as all other new students will be assigned an upper-classman mentor for the year. Mentors will have one formal and three informal contacts with their students every month to answer any questions, concerns, or problems they might have and to help in the transition process for all new students.

FHS is the first school in the state of Pennsylvania to implement this program which originated in the state of Indiana, and we are confident that the results will be phenomenal. We expect to see a decrease in absenteeism, discipline referrals, class failure rates, bullying, and drop out rate.

LUNCHES

As the schedule indicates, students will either go to the A lunch at the beginning of 3rd period and then attend their 3rd period class; go to their 3rd period class for 40 minutes, then B lunch, and then go back for another 40 minutes of their 3rd period; OR they attend their full 80 minute 3rd period and then go to C lunch. Students will be told to which lunch they are assigned during their orientation session before the start of school.

SCHEDULING TIMELINE

February 11, 2009	Course request forms are sent for each student with recommendations by core course and world language departments at FMS - They will get them back to us before 2/24/09.
Friday, February 13	Course request forms are completed for each student with recommendations by core course and world language departments at FHSTeachers, counselors, and principal discuss changes they recommend for the master schedule.
Tuesday, February 24	Evening orientation session at FHS with current 8th graders and their parents to give overview of scheduling process.
Tuesday, February 24 10:20- 10:50	Guidance counselors go to FMS to talk with 8th graders in an assembly to explain the scheduling process.
February 25-27	Guidance counselors talk to FMS students individually to get their requested electives and two alternates for their course request sheets. (3 days)
Monday, February 16	Guidance counselors meet with the FHS students in assembly during tutorial – they will explain the process AND hand out course lists.
Wednesday Feb 18 – March 9	Guidance counselors talk to FHS students individually to get their requested electives and two alternates to complete their course request sheets. (takes 2 weeks)
Monday, March 9- Friday, March 13	Course request data is entered into CSIU program. Reports are prepared to include rosters of students by course and courses offered with total number of students registered for each course.
March 16 (PSSA week) March 20	Departments look at the reports and determine if any students are misplaced. They discuss with the principal how many sections should be offered of each class. Elective choices are reviewed. If too many students are signed up for specific electives, they may be rescheduled into their alternate choices. Attempts will be made to meet seniors' and learning support requests first.
Late March	Counselors make teacher recommended changes.
Several steps take place here that mainly involve creating the master schedule, communicating with departments about what teacher will teach what, class size decisions, students' requests are put into the scheduling software, etc.	
<p>Early May</p> <p>Meet with all students by class – give them each a draft of their next year's schedule and have them mark "OK" or indicate problems with it – requests for change. There is an opportunity to ask counselors a question at this time. If necessary, counselors will meet with students individually to correct schedules. Any change requests by students must be submitted in writing (including justification and signature by parent) on our FHS form.</p>	
Mid May	Final draft of schedule delivered to students. *

NOTE:

A course roster will go back to recommending teachers at a later date in the process to have them double check where the student is placed. Teachers at that point may opt to change from their original recommendation based on students' work ethic and performance during the time since the first decision. Parents of 8th graders who have a question or concern about the initial recommendation should address them to the 8th grade teacher(s) / administration. It is our experience that the teacher recommendations are extremely reliable in this regard. However, if a parent insists that a student be placed in a different level than is

recommended – we will honor the parent’s request and note that the student is being placed against the district’s recommendation.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Follow this link to read sound advice for how a student can be successful in high school.

<http://www.fairviewschools.org/fsddemo/fhstips.shtm>

We remind 9th graders that from this point on, universities and other entities that might be recruiting them, will be looking at their performance records. Starting now, they should make every effort to take these responsibilities seriously – work hard, be organized, behave appropriately, aim for a quality performance, be involved in extracurriculars and community / school service, and strive to learn much. While you are at it, we also want you to have fun. It is not about applying undue pressure on people – it is just that you should work to your full potential.

HALT PROGRAM

The Fairview School District cares about the safety and well-being of its students. We want to make sure every school is a good place for students to learn. To do this we are going to be using a program called the *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program*. The goals of *OBPP* are to reduce bullying problems and prevent new bullying problems from happening. We have a zero tolerance of any type of harassment or negative treatment of others. The program also works to make relationships better among students. The program is for all students, not just those who are being bullied or who are bullying others. At FHS this is called the HALT program – we hold 20-minute sessions on the issue every Tuesday during the Tutorial Period as well as special assemblies. Please bring any incidents of bullying or other mistreatment to our attention. You may contact anyone in the above list.

EDLINE

Report cards are sent out at the end of the four marking periods throughout the school year. However, if you would like to see details about your student’s progress/ grade status at any time, you may visit our online grade reporting system, Ed-Line. At least on a weekly basis, FHS teachers update their class site with the most current grades. The site can be found by visiting the Fairview School District website: www.fairviewschools.org, where you will find Ed-Line listed under the Fairview High School drop-down menu. This site does require activation for parent access. The activation code and how-to directions will be sent to each household at the beginning of the school year. If you have questions or problems with this system, contact the school librarian.

Parents can contact teachers or administrators via their email addresses that are available on this page of the district website: <http://www.fairviewschools.org/fsddemo/hsdir.shtm>

TECHNOLOGY

Fairview School District has long supported the effective integration of technology to create engaging and diverse classroom activities that better help our students learn and apply new learning. In 1980, the district offered technology-related courses using two Wang computers and one Apple computer with its students. Over the next three decades, the district continued to increase investments into technology and to provide parents and students with online access to classroom resources and student grades. With recent funding from Pennsylvania’s Classrooms for the Future grant, Fairview High School now maintains a total of 476 computers, which accounts for 244 student laptops, 217 desktops in two labs and in classrooms, and 15 teacher laptops.

Additionally, as of January 2009, fourteen classrooms and the high school library include interactive whiteboards that function like enormous computer monitors that use a pen-like stylus as a mouse. Teachers and students have high speed (up to 100 mps) wireless internet access that allow them to use dynamic, rich learning tools like the library’s vast online reference resources and online textbook material; to stream videos from Discovery Education and The Visible Body; to collaborate with their peers using Google Docs, presentations, and forms; to publish their work through web 2.0 tools like wikis, blogs, and podcasts; and to share internet resources through other tools such as Diigo and Delicious.

Students at Fairview High School can expect classroom learning experiences that include collaborative, problem-based, project-based, and inquiry-based approaches. Our students will learn from and with teachers who integrate audio and video resources, interactive resources, video conferencing, as well as tried and true paper textbooks and classroom lectures. Students can expect their teachers to choose the best method of instruction, materials, activities, and assessments for both the students and the content.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Crotty is the librarian and Mrs. Lipinski is the secretary / assistant. Both are nice beyond belief and are only too willing to help you when you come to the library. These ladies will help you and your parents use your EdLine accounts. Also

The Fairview High School Library provides students with many tools to help them have a successful educational career, as well as provide them resources to become lifelong readers. Each day the library is open from 7:00am – 3:30pm. Students are welcome to use any of the available material such as:

- Computers
- digital equipment (cameras, digital video recorders, scanners)
- databases for research
- over 20,000 books
- DVDs

Students are also encouraged to visit the library during tutorial and lunch! The library is a friendly and inviting place for your student to utilize.

We are also open in the summer on Wednesdays from 8:00am – 1:00pm. Feel free to stop in and check out what we have to offer!

REGIONAL CHOICE INITIATIVE (RCI)

Something that you should know about but that will not affect you until your JUNIOR year:

Juniors or seniors who meet the criteria to take a specific AP class at Fairview are eligible to take the comparable RCI class. All students must also exhibit good attendance with no more than five absences the previous semester. Students who were suspended the previous semester will not be eligible to attend RCI. Edinboro University and Gannon University determine the classes they will offer.

Juniors are required to remain at Fairview for their Communications, Economics/Comparative government, Physics, and SAT Prep/Wellness classes. RCI classes will meet junior electives. RCI classes can be used to meet the senior math, communications, science, or social studies requirements or electives.

Since these are college courses, they will all receive an AP weight. Students will be informed about transportation and scheduling options, grading and class rank, cost, attendance rules, and other details of the program.

REFOCUS ROOM

The Refocus Room is a support program in the high school that in one way or another benefits *all* students. The purpose of our Refocus Room will be to directly assist at-risk students so they will have a positive high school experience and to teach the skills they need to reach their potential. The program is designed to assist those with behavioral and/or academic needs to learn how to make appropriate decisions about their behavior and interactions with others. It supplants the prior ISS program and is an attempt to avoid *out-of-school* suspensions or transfer to off-site alternative education programs. While those options still remain for serious offenses or chronic misconduct, students who remain in their home school environment are much better able to keep pace with their school work. It is hoped that a byproduct of the counseling will also be to improve their study/organizational skills.

The program is housed at the high school and staffed by a certified teacher and a mental health counselor from the Sarah Reed Children's Center. Students who are having academic and/or behavioral problems will be assigned to the refocusing program. While the students are in the program they will complete all classroom assignments and tests so they will be prepared to return to their Fairview classes. The amount of time a

student spends in the program will be determined by the administration and the program staff and will be based on the student's willingness to work and overall response to counseling.

TUTORING

For students who are having academic difficulty there are a number of options. These include after-school and in-school help in the Refocus Room and help during the tutorial period or after school by upperclassmen or teachers. We will also be instituting a cyber-tutoring program in the 2009-2010 school year for extra academic practice. Parents/students are encouraged to solicit and take advantage of this help when the first sign of academic problems occur.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Fairview School District is committed to providing programs and services that meet individual student needs. The Pennsylvania Department of Education's policies and procedures define the process for accessing special education services. The law supports parent involvement in these procedures and we require parent input in every phase of the educational process. These procedures include an initial referral to our building level Support Team with possible evaluation if needed. This evaluation may result in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a Service Plan addressing recommendations for specially designed instruction.

The Fairview School District believes that students with special needs are best served in the general educational setting using special education resources (such as our Learning Support teachers) to supplement and support the regular education process. Special programs tailored to meet our students' educational needs include: Gifted Support, Autistic Support, Learning Support, Speech and Hearing support and Emotional Support. Other consultative services are contracted through the Intermediate Unit including: a physical therapist, occupational therapist, deaf and hard of hearing consultant, vision consultant, and assistive technology services.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Mr. Lewis and Señor Park prepare a monthly newsletter about things going on at FHS. This would be a good resource for you to inform yourself about programs and activities. The link to past editions is:

<http://fairviewhighschool.wikispaces.com/Principal+Reports>

WEBSITES

Two places that are full of information about our district and the high school are the following two websites: Our District website maintained by Mr. Scot Layman <http://www.fairviewschools.org>

and the new high school site maintained by our student, Chris Staab, and the administrators:

<http://fairviewhighschool.wikispaces.com/>